

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the allowance of claims 1-18. Claims 1-23 are now pending, with claims 1, 14, 19 and 20 being the only independent claims. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application, as herein amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. For the following reason, withdrawal of this rejection is deemed to be in order.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 21-23 stand rejected with independent claims 19 and 20. However, claims 21-23 each depend from independent claim 14 and are therefore allowable because independent claim 14 is allowable.

The Examiner (at pg. 4 of the Office Action) has stated that "the computer-readable information medium ... includes transmissible media, which does not fall into one of the four enumerated statutory categories of invention under 35 U.S.C. §101. Therefore, claims 19 and 20 are still non-statutory because they are embodied on non-statutory elements". In response to this rejection applicants have amended the preamble of independent claims 19 and 20 to recite "A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program executed by a computer...". No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing, independent claims 19 and 20 as now amended are directed to statutory subject matter and, accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 are deemed to be in order, and notice to that effect is requested.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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